

Margaret Niklas, B.S. in Biology, DVM

Rezoning Application Amendment Factor 3 mentions creation of an isolated district unrelated to adjacent and nearby districts. A few days ago, I went to see some of the land that is part of the rezoning request. I noticed on County Road 661A that there is a dairy farm across the street from the land owned by Mosaic. An industrial zone is unrelated to dairy farming. Additionally, cattle, like most hoof stock, are prey animals. They have a heightened sensitivity to changes in the environment. Factors such as noise and heavy equipment movements involved in mining for phosphate produce stress in the animals, causing a release of cortisol, commonly called a “stress hormone”. Higher stress hormone levels, besides causing effects on all organ systems, cause a decrease in milk production. Also, radioactive dust particles that settle on the pasture will be ingested by the animals, affecting their health, possibly contaminating the milk. Although the Mosaic representatives promise “berms” will protect surrounding areas from dust, I remind you that, as I learned in my college physics class, air shares many properties of water. Imagine a wave at the beach hitting a steep bank—some gets over the top.

The dust particles will also contaminate crop-producing soil, a public health concern. From the special training I had in Oncology (the study of cancer), Medical science has proven that even slight exposure to toxins can lead to development of cancer. Cancer is caused by two factors—one genetic and the other environmental. At the hearing of June 5, 2018, a Mosaic Representative claimed that there would be no “significant spread of dust”. How do they measure what is “significant”?

Regarding Rezoning Amendment Factor 1, whether the rezoning is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan—Policy 1.7.10 & 1.7.11 mention reduction of ecological value and loss of habitat.

If the mining process were to commence, how will all the species—both plant and animal—“wait” for the land to be “reclaimed”? Most people are aware that many species currently threatened with extinction suffer from loss of habitat. The bulldozers and draglines will decimate habitat as well as creatures of all kinds, even to the microscopic level. Also, many species are territorial, like “Big Cats” (panthers and bobcats), and their movements will be altered to the point of threatening their survival. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida panther males have a range of 200 square miles, females 70-80 square miles. Bobcats require less territory—5-6 square miles. I have seen panther tracks and bobcat individuals on my property which is within ten miles of the proposed mining areas. With rare exceptions, lions for one, “Big Cats” are solitary individuals that have to find each other for breeding. Female cats are “induced ovulators” which means that they do not ovulate unless they mate. A female cat can remain in season for prolonged periods of time if she does not mate, resulting in health problems such as anemia. I learned in my study of population biology, zoology, and during an internship I did at the Philadelphia zoo, that there is a critical number of individuals in a population necessary for its survival because of the necessary genetic diversity. Once a population dips below this number, it is not going to survive.

Item 7 of the Rezoning Application Amendment Factors addresses adverse effects on the “living conditions in the area”.

--One factor that was addressed is noise levels. I want to call attention to the effects on living organisms, other than human beings. Noise is an environmental stress factor and has been shown to have deleterious effects on many kinds of living things. Birds rely on sound to find mates and find fledglings immediately after leaving the nest. Many species of predators as well as prey animals can be affected by noise levels interfering with the cues they receive from their environment that could threaten survival.

- Another is contamination of water sources. Since our family lives within ten miles of the proposed mining site, we are concerned about our well water, our only water source. Our daughter is a backyard beekeeper. From her research on honey bees, she has learned that they travel three miles, possibly farther, from their hives in foraging and looking for water sources. No one can guarantee that honey bees will not drink from water associated with the mining operations that may have radiation or other contaminants that will kill bees and /or people consuming honey. Remember, one of Arcadia's major crops is watermelon which is dependent on honey bees for pollination.

The risks to public health & safety, quality of life and welfare of our local economy (effects to farming and ranching) outweigh the benefits of rezoning this land.

The New York Times

Environmental Agency Uncorks Its Own Toxic Water Spill at Colorado Mine



People kayaking in the Animas River near Durango, Colo., last Thursday, in water colored from a mine waste spill. The river is now closed indefinitely, with visitors warned to stay out. Credit Jerry McBride/The Durango Herald, via Associated Press

By [Julie Turkewitz](#)

DURANGO, Colo. — The Animas River is the cultural soul of this patch of southwestern Colorado, a sort of moving Main Street that hosts multiple floating parades a year and is typically bustling with rafters and kayakers. Schoolchildren study the river. Sweethearts marry on its banks. Its former name, given by Spaniards, is el Río de las Ánimas, the River of Souls.

But since Wednesday, the Animas has been grievously polluted with toxic water spilled from one of the many abandoned mines that pockmark the region — a spill for which the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) has claimed responsibility, saying it accidentally breached a store of chemical-laced water.

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